

Respectfully submitted,

F. Kueff

Friedrich Kueffner Reg. No. 29,482
342 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10173
(212) 986-3114

February 26, 2002

FK:ml

ENCLS:

Amended Claims;
Marked-Up Version.

EXPRESS MAIL No.: EL 862 851 574 US Deposited: February 26, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

F. Kueff

Friedrich Kueffner

10069707-022602

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

- A'
1. A device for the continuous casting of metal, in particular, steel, comprising a lifting platform which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device, further comprising a continuous casting mold received on the lifting platform, as well as a stationarily arranged support frame which is provided with guiding or bearing elements for the lifting platform, wherein such a guiding or bearing element is an elastic spring system (61a to 64a, 61b to 64b), comprised of two spring legs (201, 202; 301, 302) arranged angularly relative to one another, which spring legs extend perpendicularly to the oscillation direction, respectively, wherein the two spring legs are formed like a tuning fork and wherein the respectively overlapping upper and lower ends (211a, 211b, 212a, 212b; 311a, 311b, 312a, 312b) of the two spring legs form the support surface for the lifting platform (3a, 3b) or the connecting surface with the stationarily arranged support frame (2a, 2b), and wherein the spring system, in addition to the force in the oscillation direction, compensates by load balancing disturbing forces in directions perpendicular to the oscillation direction.
2. A device for the continuous casting of metal, in particular, steel, comprising a lifting platform which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device, further comprising a continuous

A!
cont

casting mold received on the lifting platform, as well as a stationarily arranged support frame which is provided with guiding elements for the lifting platform, wherein such a guiding element is a pressure-controlled cushion system.

- 10069707-022602
3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring system of the two spring legs is formed of a single part configuration or a two-part configuration.
 4. The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring leg is comprised, respectively, of a leaf spring (201, 202, 301, 302) bent to a U-shape or of two leaf spring elements (401, 402, 501, 502) which are connected with their free ends to one another in a detachable way.
 5. The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring system can be fixedly locked on the lifting platform and is arranged so as to be adjustable on the support frame.
 6. The device according to claim 1, wherein the lifting platform is comprised of two lifting platform elements (3a, 3b) which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device (4a, 4b), respectively, and wherein the two lifting platform elements arranged spaced apart from one another receive the continuous casting mold (13) such that it extends between them and the strand

is removed between the two lifting platform elements (3a, 3b), and in that the support frame is also comprised of two support frame elements (2a, 2b) for receiving a lifting platform element, respectively.

- A',
cont
7. The device according to claim 6, wherein a lifting platform element (3a, 3b), respectively, is provided with four spring systems (61a to 64a; 61b to 64b) for load balancing, wherein the foot area of the lifting platform element (33a, 33b) rests by means of two connecting elements (71a, 72a; 71b, 72b) on two spring systems and the lifting platform element is provided at the head end with two projections (81a, 82a) which rest on the two other spring systems, wherein the spring systems are arranged staggered to one another.

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A device for the continuous casting of metal, in particular, steel, comprising a lifting platform which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device, further comprising a continuous casting mold received on the lifting platform, as well as a stationarily arranged support frame which is provided with guiding or bearing elements for the lifting platform,
[characterized in that] wherein
such a guiding or bearing element is an elastic spring system (61a to 64a, 61b to 64b), comprised of two spring legs (201, 202; 301, 302) arranged angularly relative to one another, which spring legs extend perpendicularly to the oscillation direction, respectively, wherein the two spring legs are formed like a tuning fork and wherein the respectively overlapping upper and lower ends (211a, 211b, 212a, 212b; 311a, 311b, 312a, 312b) of the two spring legs form the support surface for the lifting platform (3a, 3b) or the connecting surface with the stationarily arranged support frame (2a, 2b), and wherein the spring system, in addition to the force in the oscillation direction, compensates by load balancing disturbing forces in directions perpendicular to the oscillation direction.

10069707-022602
209220-2069007

2. A device for the continuous casting of metal, in particular, steel, comprising a lifting platform which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device, further comprising a continuous casting mold received on the lifting platform, as well as a stationarily arranged support frame which is provided with guiding elements for the lifting platform,
[characterized in that] wherein
such a guiding element is a pressure-controlled cushion system.
3. The device according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein
the spring system of the two spring legs is formed of a single part configuration or a two-part configuration.
4. The device according to [claim 1 or 3,
characterized in that] claim 1, wherein
the spring leg is comprised, respectively, of a leaf spring (201, 202, 301, 302) bent to a U-shape or of two leaf spring elements (401, 402, 501, 502) which are connected with their free ends to one another in a detachable way.
5. The device according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein
the spring system can be fixedly locked on the lifting platform and is arranged so as to be adjustable on the support frame.

6. The device according to [claim 1 or 2, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the lifting platform is comprised of two lifting platform elements (3a, 3b) which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device (4a, 4b), respectively, and wherein the two lifting platform elements arranged spaced apart from one another receive the continuous casting mold (13) such that it extends between them and the strand is removed between the two lifting platform elements (3a, 3b), and in that the support frame is also comprised of two support frame elements (2a, 2b) for receiving a lifting platform element, respectively.
7. The device according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein a lifting platform element (3a, 3b), respectively, is provided with four spring systems (61a to 64a; 61b to 64b) for load balancing, wherein the foot area of the lifting platform element (33a, 33b) rests by means of two connecting elements (71a, 72a; 71b, 72b) on two spring systems and the lifting platform element is provided at the head end with two projections (81a, 82a) which rest on the two other spring systems, wherein the spring systems are arranged staggered to one another.